

## *Danish night-shifters get compensation*

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*The Danish government is paying compensation to women who have developed breast cancer after years of working night-shifts. The Scottish Trades Union Congress is calling on the UK government to take the risks of night-shifts more seriously. Kenneth MacDonald reports:*

For years **evidence has been mounting** that night working causes ill health, from **disturbed sleep patterns** to increased accidents. But these are the first government payments to women who've developed breast cancer after **long spells** on the night-shift. Ulla Mahnkopf, a former **flight attendant**, is one of them:

*Ulla Mahnkopf:* 'I wouldn't fly for that many years, I wouldn't, **definitely** not. Because it's cancer you can die from, so I'd like to stay alive.'

The Danish authorities acted following a decision by the International Agency for Research and Cancer. The agency, part of the UN World Health Organisation, now **ranks night working as a probable cancer risk**, just one category below known **carcinogens** like asbestos.

Union leaders have told Radio Scotland, the investigation programme that the UK government isn't doing enough to deal with the dangers. The Health and Safety Executive says it's **commissioned** its own study but its **conclusions** aren't expected for another two years.

Kenneth MacDonald, BBC News, Glasgow

## Vocabulary and definitions

<b>evidence has been mounting</b>	there has been more and more proof
<b>disturbed sleep patterns</b>	when a person cannot sleep properly (e.g. suffers from insomnia) because their daily routine often changes and their body no longer 'knows' what time it is meant to rest and for how long
<b>long spells</b>	long periods of certain activity (here, of working night-shifts)
<b>flight attendant</b>	a person employed by an airline to ensure comfort and safety of passengers during flights. Synonyms: steward/stewardess, purser, member of the cabin crew
<b>definitely</b>	certainly, for sure
<b>ranks night working as a probable cancer risk</b>	considers working night-shifts to be one of the causes of cancer
<b>carcinogens</b>	substances that can cause or speed up the development of cancer in a person
<b>commissioned</b>	if you <b>commission</b> someone to do something for you, you ask them to do it and pay them money; if you <b>commission</b> something, like an investigation or a study, you authorise it and pay people who carry it out
<b>conclusions</b>	opinions or judgements you have after considering as much information about something as possible

**More on this story:** <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/health/7945481.stm>

**Read and listen to the story and the vocabulary online:**

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